30 – January - 2014

Time: 1: pm -3 :Pm

Venue: SofOmar Meeting room, ILRI campus, Addis Ababa

Attendes

Peter Thorne (ILRI\Africa RISING) , Beth Cullen (ILRI), Kindu Mekonnen(ILRI\Africa RISING) , Eliud Birachi (CIAT), Jane Wamatu (ICARDA), Wellington Jogo(CIP) , Simret Yasabu(ILRI\Africa RISING), ,kiros Hadgu(ICRAF) , Britta Kowalski (CIP), Ewen Le Borgne(ILRI), Melkamu Bezabih (ILRI), Mohammed Ebrahim (ILRI\Africa RISING), Steffen Schulz (CIP), Valentine Gandhi (IWMI), Alan Duncan(ILRI), Annet Mulema (ILRI), Aster Gebrekirstos (ICRAF), Girma Tesfahun (ICARDA) , Frederic Baudron (CIMMIT), Lulseged Desta (CIAT), Barbara Ann Rischkowsky (ICARDA) and Kassahun Mengistu(IFPRI)

**Meeting Agenda**

1. Institutional Update

2. Discussion on the draft Africa RISING Work Plan for the Ethiopian Highlands

The meeting started with a welcoming remark from Peter Thorne. He mentioned that this meeting will focus more on discussing the draft work plan which was developed during the review and planning meeting held from 31 October -1 November 2013. The draft work plan has been compiled and put in to a template and was shared to the partners for their review and complement. Before going into a more detailed discussion on the work plan he asked for each institution to give a brief update.

**Agenda 1.** Institutional Update

**IWMI**

• IWMI has distributed water pumps for the selected farmers in Lemo in SNNPR and there is a plan to work together with the Innovation Lab Small Scale Irrigation project that is financed by USAID. A follow up study on water resources was done in collaboration with ILRI consultant.

* Progress report of work done in the first year submitted to Dr Peter Thorne.

**ILRI**

* A field trip was organized to Bale and meeting was conducted with the three important partners for the Africa RISING project: Universities, extension and research centers/institutions. Good progress was made in improving the linkages amongst site level partners.

• A two days training was organized and conducted in ILRI campus, Addis Ababa focusing on the establishment of Innovation platforms for the Africa RISING sites . Around 35 participants coming from the four regions and that of Addis attended the training. After the completion of the training there will be a field trip to Amhara and Tigray regions to establish the woreda and kebele level innovation platforms.

• Annet has drafted a gender work plan, protocol, approach, and how to mainstream gender

**ICARDA**

* The field work continued
* There was FEAST training before the survey was conducted.

**CIMMYT**

• Due to lack of human resource CIMMYT has not been much involved in the Africa RISING project so far. However, there is now the possibility to get involved in the crop research but on the system side.

**ICRAF**

• Finalized most of the work of 2013 and submitted the IP report for the training that Africa RISING organized in late January

• Local knowledge report is being finalized

• The survey on technology adoption process is still pending because Martha is away but will start in March

**CIAT**

• Completed survey questionnaire pre-testing

• The actual survey on value chain will start as of 15 Feb in all the sites and the preparation is completed

• The field work will be finished approximately by the end of Feb

**Agenda 2.** Discussionon the draft Africa RISING Work Plan for the Ethiopian Highlands

The second and most important agenda item of the meeting was the discussion on the draft Africa RISING Work Plan for the Ethiopian Highlands. The plan was the result of the group discussion that was held d during the review and planning meeting from 31 October -1 November 2013 at ILRI campus. Peter mentioned that he took some time to bring the plan together and put it in a proper template. He added that the plan was circulated some time ago for CG partners and those people who have additions have added on the draft circulated.

Peter went through the seven thematic areas and asked if the participants had any additions, clarifications and questions. The plan was well accepted by the participants with the following points raised:

**On Theme 2**

Que : Do we include row planting methods as it is an important technology?

Ans : it will come under 2.2.1

Comment: We are not going to implement the whole in the next two months and we will need to give priority for those which need to come first.

**Theme 4:**

Que : When we were developing theme 4 during the planning and review meeting the participants raised the importance of including energy . So where are we going to include the energy?

Ans . It can be included under the systems theme

Que. Where do you include the contribution of the water pumps?

Ans . under theme 1 - 4.1

**Theme 5:**

Que : Is there a scope to involve participatory modeling?

Ans : Yes, and it will be cross linked with theme 7 which is Knowledge management

**Theme 6:**

Comment :

• There could be a possibility to have a protocol on Post-harvest

• We include gender also in the cross cutting-

• It is good to review this plan at some point to see if we have missed important issues

**Theme 7**

* The innovation platform and the research on IP will come under theme 7

Other comments and questions

Que : Do we have a working definition for IP in AR?

Ans . The IP will be tailored according to the sites. ILRI has done quite a lot on IP.

Comment : it is good to have awareness raising on IP so that everyone is on the same page

Que . Do you have a synthesis from the different reports?

Ans . There has been lots of diagnostic work and someone needs to sit and synthesis. The PCA gives good overview and people give their priorities so good to refer to it.

Que : What is the budget for 2014?

Ans : It depends on the protocol that partners come up with

Discussion on research protocols: Peter explained the research protocol developed to define the research that will be conducted by the Africa RISING project. He highlighted that:

* Research protocols are inter-disciplinary so it is unlikely that a protocol put forward by a single organisation will be admissible.
* the operational budget is managed centrally by the site coordinators

Que : What are the targets to reach more households or AR scaling up strategies?

Ans : This can be an agenda for next month meeting.

Next step

- Partners to submit their initial draft research protocols by mid-February (for short season activities) and up to the end of February for long season activities.

- The proposals will be reviewed and communicated to the lead researchers

- The plan will be reviewed every four months and see if it fit its purpose (the next review being April)

**Next monthly meeting**: 27 February 2014, place SofOmar meeting room